

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, PFOR, UR, US, UN

SUBJECT: SOVIET VIEWS ON PARKING

REF: USUN 2495

1. MISOFFS MET JULY 31 WITH SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES SMIRNOV AND FEDEROV TO UNDERTAKE INFORMAL DIALOGUE ON PARKING PROBLEMS AFFECTING UN MISSIONS PER REFTEL. US MISOFFS GAVE SOVIET REPS STRONG ARGUMENTATION FOR NEED TO IMPROVE PARKING SITUATION IN NEW YORK CITY AND IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO DIPLOMATS ADHERING TO LOCAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS. DISCUSSION WAS CONSTRUCTIVE AND IN GOOD HUMOR AND USUN BELIEVES THAT WE MAY HAVE MADE SOME SLIGHT PROGRESS WITH SOVIETS ON THIS QUESTION. WITHOUT MAKING ANY PROMISES WE AGREED TO EXAMINE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING A FEW ADDITIONAL PARKING PLACES FOR SOVIET MISSION, POINTING OUT THAT WE HAD ALREADY REQUESTED TRAFFIC COMMISSIONER KARAGHEUZOFF TO SEE IF SOME FURTHER SPACES COULD BE ALLOCATED FOR DIPLOMATIC PARKING IN GENERAL. WE ALSO INFORMED SOVIETS THAT WE HOPED TO INSTITUTE NEW PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING PARKING TICKETS TO ELIMINATE SOME OF THE MORE BURDENSOME PAPERWORK ASPECTS OF CURRENT SYSTEM.

2. SMIRNOV PROMISED THAT SOVIET MISSION WOULD ENDEAVOR

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TO COMPLY WITH PARKING REGULATIONS ALTHOUGH HE MADE

DISTINCTION BETWEEN ILLEGAL PARKING BY PARKING METERS  
(SOVIETS REFUSE TO FEED METERS) AND PARKING ELSEWHERE E.G.,  
BY FIRE HYDRANTS, BUS STOPS, CROSSWALKS, ETC. WHEN INFORMED  
THAT USUN HOPED TO INSTITUTE SYSTEM WHEREBY EACH MISSION  
WOULD RECEIVE MONTHLY COMPUTER RUNOFF OF VIOLATIONS FOR ALL  
VEHICLES DRIVEN BY DIPLOMATS OF EACH MISSION, SMIRNOV  
STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT IF ANY VIOLATIONS WERE ATTRIBUTED  
TO SOVIET DIPLOMATS FOR PARKING IN FRONT OF FIRE HYDRANTS,  
FOR EXAMPLE, OR OTHER "SERIOUS" PARKING OFFENCES, ONE WARNING  
WOULD BE SUFFICIENT. HIS MISSION WOULD TAKE STRICT MEASURES  
AGAINST SOVIET MISSION VIOLATOR IN QUESTION. HE ALSO APPEARED  
TO BACK OFF SLIGHTLY FROM HIS CONTENTION THAT TICKETING  
OF DPL CARS WAS "ILLEGAL".

3. MEETING CONCLUDED WITH MUTUAL EXPRESSION OF HOPE THAT  
GREATER UNDERSTANDING WOULD BE SHOWN BY DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY  
AND NEW YORK CITY AUTHORITIES IN IMPROVING OVERALL PARKING  
SITUATION AS IT AFFECTS DIPLOMATS.

4. COMMENT: SMIRNOV WHO IS SENIOR MISSION LEGAL COUNSELOR  
APPEARS TO APPRECIATE WEAKNESS SOVIET PARKING PRACTICES AND  
THEIR LEGAL VIEWS ON PARKING. PERHAPS THIS IS BECAUSE MISSION  
REALIZES CITY AND USUN REMAIN FIRM AND THAT CONTINUED  
BLATANT PARKING PRACTICES WILL INCREASINGLY EMBARRASS  
SOVIETS HERE IN NYC. BY COMPARISON WITH TONE OF EARLIER  
DEMARCHE (REFTEL) BOTH SMIRNOV AND FEDEROV ARE TAKING MUCH  
MORE CONSIDERED APPROACH. THIS MAY NOT, HOWEVER, BE REFLECTED  
IN PUBLIC STANCE THEY TAKE IN HOST COUNTRY RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
MEETINGS. WE WILL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS AMELIORATE THIS  
CONTENTIOUS LONG-RANGE PROBLEM.

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